

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 280800Z JAN 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5080

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0162

E.WO.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: SEPARATE BUT EQUAL (?) TREATMENT FOR USLO CONTINUES

1. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, OUR CHINESE HOSTS ARE MASTERS AT USING PROTOCOL DISTINCTIONS AS A TOOL TO EMPHASIZE THE LESS THAN FULL DIPLOMATIC STATUS OF USLO. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY GO TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO AVOID GIVING US GROUNDS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENT VISITS, HE DOES NOT GET THE USUAL POM POM GIRLS AT THE AIRPORT OR FLAGS IN THE STREET, BUT HE COMMANDS MORE ATTENTION OF TOP CHINESE LEADERS THAN ALMOST ANY OTHER VISITING DIGNITARY. USLO IS NOT INVITED ON THE ANNUAL DIPLOMATIC TOURS ARRANGED FOR PEKING-BASED DIPLOMATS, BUT THE CHINESE THEN OFFER A SEPARATE TOUR FOR USLO. THE CHINESE REPRESENTATION AT JULY 4 RECEPTIONS IS KEPT AT THE RELATIVELY LOW VICE MINISTER LEVEL, BUT WHEN MR. BUSH LEFT HE WAS GIVEN AN USUSUAL SEND-OFF LUNCH BY NPIC PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING. FINALLY, NCNA ROUTINELY NOTES OUR PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR EVENTS BY LISTING USLO AND OUR FELLOW "OFFICE", THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE, SEPARATELY AND AFTER THE REST OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

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2. THE CHINESE GAVE THIS PRACTICE A NEW TWIST ON JANUARY 27 BY HOSTING A SEPARATE SHOWING OF ITS CURRENT PROPAGANDA FILM "BREAKING WITH OLD IDEAS" FOR USLO. OTHER PEKING DIPLOMATS HAD BEEN INVITED TO SEE THE FILM ON JANUARY 22. ON THAT OCCASION, MOST OF THE GUESTS ARRIVED TOO LATE FOR REFRESHMENTS, ALTHOUGH SOME MANAGED TO GET A QUICK DRINK AND HAVE A BRIEF CHAT WITH ONE OF TWO VICE FOREIGN MINISTERS PRESENT BEFORE SITTING STOICALLY IN A COLD AUDITORIUM TO WATCH THE FILM. BY CONTRAST, TWENTY-FOUR USLO STAFF MEMBERS AND WIVES WERE GIVEN AN EXCELLENT UNHURRIED LUNCH IN THE FORMER U.S. LEGATION BUILDING BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAS/OCEANIA AND PROTOCOL DEPART-

MENTS AND STAFF MEMBERS BEFORE THE FILM. THE ENTIRE AFFAIR, EVEN WITH

THE HEAVY PROPAGANDA CONTENT OF THE FILM, WAS ONE OF THE MORE PLEASANT AND RELAXED GATHERINGS WE HAVE HAD WITH OUR MFA COUNTERPARTS. OF COURSE, THE CHINESE MADE THEIR POINT BY LOWERING THE LEVEL OF THE HOSTS, OMITTING NCNA PUBLICITY, AND HOLDING THE EVENT IN PROPERTY WE CLAIM.

3. THIS PATTERN OF INTENTIONALLY CONFUSED DISCRIMINATION TOWARD THE AMERICAS IN PEKING WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE CONTINUED UNTIL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE "NORMALIZED." IN THE MEANTIME, THE PRACTICE ADMIRABLY SERVES PRC INTERESTS BY ALLOWING THEM TO SHOW OTHER DIPLOMATS AND THEIR OWN PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE KEEPING THE AMERICANS IN SOMETHING OF A SECOND-CLASS STATUS, WHILE IMPRESSING THE SOVIETS AND US WITH THE WARMTH AND THE PERMANENCE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.
THOMAS

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